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SENATE AND HOUSE TAKE UP BILLS TO HALT RAILROAD STRIKE KING CONSTANTINE ABDICATES IN FAVOR OF GREEK WAR PARTY; REVOLUTION IMMINENT

STRIKE PREVENTION BILLS IN CONGRESS; OUTLOOK BRIGHTER

Senate and House Both Take Up Eight-Hour Bills, Passage of Which Will Mean Recalling of Strike Order—House to Vote This Afternoon on Adamson Bill Which Will Be Rushed to Senate—President at Capitol Early to Aid in Legislative Program.

Washington, Sept. 1—Bills to avert the railway strike actually were put on their way to passage today in both houses of Congress.

Under a special rule providing for a vote not later than 4:30 this afternoon, the House took up the Adamson eight-hour day bill approved by President Wilson and accepted by the brotherhood leaders as a "satisfactory settlement."

The Senate interstate commerce committee reported a similar bill which, however, contains an important provision empowering the interstate commerce commission to fix schedules of wages on interstate railways. It provides that the eight-hour day shall become effective January 1, 1917, that the present pay for the ten-hour day shall apply to the shorter day; that overtime shall be paid pro rata, but adds that within not less than six and not more than twelve months after its passage, the interstate commerce commission shall assume jurisdiction of the question of hours and wages, and that they shall be subject to petition for change from either the employers, the employees or the public.

The text of that provision is as follows: "That the interstate commerce commission shall have the power to fix the hours of labor and prescribe just and reasonable wages for all employees of the railroads. . . . The rate of wages and the hours of labor provided for in this act shall remain in force until such time as the commission shall determine otherwise. . . . The commission shall have the power from time to time to change the hours of labor and the rate of wages for all employees of the railroads. . . . either in whole or in part, prescribed by it on its own initiative on the petition of the employees, the employers or the railroads or the public."

The possibility for a hitch seemed to be in this added provision which is being studied by the brotherhood leaders. The committee eliminated the proposal that on the report of the eight-hour day commission, the interstate commerce commission "shall consider an increase of freight rates to meet such additional expenditures by the railroads affected as may have been rendered necessary by the adoption of the eight hour day."

Neither of the two pending bills contains the labor leaders' demand that the government operation of the railroads be authorized. President Wilson is willing to let those features wait until after enough legislation to avert the strike has been enacted.

Senate Republicans decided today to frame a bill of their own and offer it as a substitute for the administration plan. A committee was appointed to draft it. No serious opposition to the administration plan was expected, however.

Senator La Follette, quitting the political campaign, suddenly returned to the capital today to take a hand in the legislation. He said he could not tell what his attitude toward the pending bills would be until he had investigated them. The time for passage of the bills is so short that a filibuster might seriously interfere with the program. Democratic leaders, however, do not expect one and were confident the program would go through in time.

The Adamson bill has been approved by the President and the heads of the railway brotherhoods have said that its passage by both houses of Congress will be considered a satisfactory settlement.

The railway heads, having voiced their protest against the legislation, did nothing today, awaiting its outcome.

Barring unforeseen complications, it seems assured today that Congress would act finally before Saturday night and in time for the brotherhood heads to call off the strike set for 7 o'clock Monday morning.

When the Senate convened, a recess was almost immediately taken until 1 p. m., to permit the interstate com-

PREPARE DEATH BLOW FOR COMMISSION GOVERNMENT

With ample strength in the common council to impose its will upon the electorate, the administration has prepared a death blow for the cherished schemes of the advocates of government by commission.

Fearful of loss under the proposed charter of the present opportunities to award fat contracts for streets and other municipal work to favored persons, the administration has evolved a scheme by which it is confident it will defeat the work of the charter revision committee and of the commission government league.

It is more than likely—it is now practically assured—that the administration will get away with its scheme. Here it is:

Instead of submitting the question of the adoption of the change of government to the voters at the regular election in November it plans to submit the question at a special election. It is so difficult to get the indifferent voter to the polls for a special election that the strong, well oiled Republican machine will defeat the proponents of charter government by marshalling its well organized forces at the election places with instructions to vote against the change.

The administration's spokesmen naively explain that they regard the question of the change of form of government as too grave to be involved with the complexities of the regular election. The voter should have a chance to pass on this question by itself, without having to think of all the various national, state and city candidates in the regular election.

As a matter of fact, they recall, well, how difficult it has been to get to the polling places any considerable percentage of the registered vote at any of the special elections held in the history of the city.

The charter revision committee, as a committee, is taking an apathetic attitude in the matter. They regard their work, now, as completed, for this afternoon a draft of the proposed charter has been given to Mayor Wilson by the secretary of the commission, Attorney Clarence R. Hall. It is not part of their duties, they feel, to ask how the proposed charter should be submitted to the voters.

The committee on revision includes Lucien T. Warner, Guy P. Miller, C. D. S. Miller, Hamilton Shelton and John S. Pullman.

The committee was appointed on November 5, 1915, pursuant to a vote of the electors on November 2, 1915. The committee was to serve without pay and prepare a charter for the City of Bridgeport, and report back within one year from the date of its appointment.

It is believed now that the date was set at one year in order that the committee might take all the time indicated and report too late to present the proposition at the regular election.

All of its members have been anxious, however, to get the charter before the voters at the regular election and have worked with that end in view.

The draft was submitted to the mayor today with the idea that he would be able to thoroughly peruse the document and familiarize himself with it by the meeting of the council next Tuesday night. If on the recommendation of the mayor the council adopts the ideas of the committee and votes that the charter shall be submitted to the electors, there are just 61 days before the regular election.

This brings the proposition legally before the voters just one day after the limit set by the Home Rule act. This (Continued on page 4)

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Crown Prince Accedes to Government With Former Premier Venizelos as the Power Behind the Throne—Expected to Cast Lot Immediately With the Allies—Serious Uprising Breaks Out at Saloniki, With Regulars and Volunteers in Clash—War Party Committee Takes Over Garrisons in Macedonia.

London, Sept. 1—King Constantine, of Greece, has abdicated, according to the British official press representative at Saloniki.

The press representative says the King has abdicated in favor of the Crown Prince, with former Premier Venizelos as the power behind the throne. The new policy, he reports, will be to work with the entente allies.

According to this information, Premier Zamimis will remain at the head of the government.

The correspondent questions whether the entente allies desire the active assistance of Greece.

Various rumors are in circulation here in regard to the situation in Greece. Reuter despatches from Saloniki say there has been fighting between the Greek garrison at Saloniki and Greek volunteers recently organized to assist the Greek regulars who are resisting the Bulgarians in Macedonia. French troops intervened to suppress the fighting and the garrison finally surrendered and marched out of Saloniki.

Ward Price, to whom the above despatch is credited, is the official British press representative designated by the government to act for all British publications in that area. Nevertheless, his despatches are subject not only to the Greek censorship but to the French military censorship, which is in control of all lines of communication from Athens.

The fact that both censorships, as well as the British censorship in London, have permitted this despatch to come through is significant.

On Tuesday, Mr. Price sent from Saloniki a report that King Constantine had fled from Athens to Larissa. This despatch was discredited in official circles in London yesterday.

Doubt also appeared to be cast on its correctness by despatches filed from Athens on Wednesday, one of them telling of coming meetings between the King and the entente ministers and others having to do with the illness of the King, who recently underwent a slight operation. It is possible, however, that the King may have departed secretly from Athens, as reported by Mr. Price and that his absence was concealed from the newspaper correspondents there.

Crown Prince George, of Greece, whose accession to the throne is reported, has been described as a man of liberal mind, in true sympathy with the aspirations of the Greek people. He was born July 19, 1890, and is unmarried. His engagement to Princess Elizabeth, of Rumania, was announced in 1914 but owing to the war the wedding was postponed.

The Crown Prince has kept in the background during the war. When the entente troops landed at Saloniki last year, the King sent the Crown Prince to take charge of the Greek forces there. It was reported that months ago that the Prince had been sent on a mission to the German and Austrian emperors.

Prompt action by the French commander, who detailed a strong escort to protect the Saloniki garrison and marched it through the streets of the city in the afternoon, had the effect of clearing the atmosphere.

It is reported from Greek sources at Saloniki that the entire force of about 3,000 men under Col. Christodoulos, which left Serres several days ago to resist the Bulgarian invasion of Macedonia, has been captured by the Bulgarians.

Garrisons Surrender to War Party Heads

The surrender of several Greek garrisons to a committee which has taken over administration of part of Greece Macedonia is reported in a Reuter despatch from Saloniki.

According to this despatch the part Little Karaburun have surrendered to the committee.

On its face, this despatch indicates that a revolution is under way in Greece, but the message is worded so vaguely, probably on account of the censorship, that no definite conclusions can be drawn. There have been various indications since the entrance of Rumania into war of political turmoil in Greece, owing to the conflict between the neutralists, represented by King Constantine, and those who desire to intervene in the war with the entente allies, led by former Premier Venizelos. An Athens despatch received yesterday represented that King Constantine was finding his position very difficult on account of the growing strength of the pro-entente faction.

There is in existence in Greece a committee representing the Liberal, or entente faction, and it is possible that the Greek garrisons surrendered to this or some similar body. The committee was appointed on Sunday, on the occasion of the demonstration of 50,000 Greeks before the residence of M. Venizelos in Athens and was instructed to present to the King resolutions warning him not to interfere in the approaching elections and to prepare the army for a possible rupture of existing conditions.

The forces mentioned in the foregoing despatch are located in northern Greece close behind the front on which the entente allies are fighting the Bulgarians and their allies. Voden is on the railroad line between Saloniki and Monastir, an important means of communication for the entente allies. It is 45 miles west of Saloniki. Little Karaburun is on the Gulf of Saloniki, about 10 miles south of the city.

Further details of the disturbance in Saloniki are given in a later despatch to Reuter's Telegram Co., which says that when the volunteers ascertained the regulars were unwilling to co-operate with them they surrounded the barracks in the night, cut the water main and electric light wires and shut off food supplies.

A detachment of 60 regulars attempted to break its way out to obtain supplies. Its surrender was demanded and when the regulars refused the volunteers fired shots in the air. The regulars replied with a volley, whereupon the volunteers opened fire on them, compelling them to return to the barracks.

The allied commander, General Sarrahl, intervened to prevent further bloodshed. Altogether, according to

"SLAVE" TELLS COURT TALE OF DOWNFALL HERE

Giving one of the most direct and dramatic stories ever heard in the city court room, Miss Catherine Sheets of Oil City, Pa., today recounted her acquaintance with Nicholas DiSessa, of 167 Golden Hill street and proved an admirable witness in recounting the details which constitute the net being woven about him on the white slave charges. He was bound over to the superior court under bonds of \$3,000 by Judge F. A. Bartlett who found probable cause.

Miss Sheets, 22 years old, was arrested Saturday charged with embezzlement from the Woolworth Five and Ten Cent store where she was a clerk. The charge is still against her and she will be arraigned on that count on September 13.

On the witness stand today, Miss Sheets told how she had come to this city from Oil City where her husband had died two years ago. On the street DiSessa spoke to her and made her acquaintance by taking her to theatres, on the Saturday before the Fourth of July, he promised to marry her after securing a divorce from his present wife. That evening he took her to a barber shop on Park avenue just above Railroad avenue where she met two men.

After that she did just as DiSessa bid her and walked the streets, turning over her earnings to DiSessa. She recounted several other instances where he had taken her to various houses or secluded sections of the city. Judge Bartlett interposed after a number of such occurrences had been explained and said that he found sufficient cause to bind over the accused.

Attorney Daniel E. Brennan, who represented DiSessa, objected strongly to the judge's decision as he claimed that no evidence had been produced to show that DiSessa had used the money in supporting himself and the statutes stated implicitly that the charge was for living on the money gained in the wrong manner. However, the judge said that in his opinion there was no doubt of DiSessa's guilt and he was bound over.

Father Worst, Son Aids With Wrench

Taking his father's part in a tussle with John Brown of 699 Broad street, the son of Job Brough of 212 South avenue hit Brown over the head, and was arrested for the assault. In the city court today when Judge Bartlett was hearing the case of Brown, charged with assaulting the elder Brough, the charge against young Brough was nolle prosequi and Brown was given a 30 day suspended jail sentence.

Brough alleged that Brown came to the Brough home last night and raised a disturbance about Mrs. Brown, who lives at the South avenue address. Brown was on top of Brough on the sidewalk when young Brough could witness his parent being pummeled no longer, and with the aid of a wrench sought to conquer his father's opponent.

"ONLY TEMPORARY SETTLEMENT," SAY RAILROAD HEADS

Chicago, Sept. 1.—While railroad officials of the country generally agreed today that passage by Congress of the proposed eight-hour bill would avert the strike set by the strike set by the four brotherhoods of railway employees for next Monday, many were of the opinion that the railroads would decline to accept the law without a con-

(Continued on page 4)

BULGARS DECLARE FOR WAR

London, Sept. 1—Bulgaria has declared war on Rumania, according to an official announcement made at Saloniki as forwarded by Reuter's correspondent there.

Russians Capture 15,500 Prisoners

Petrograd, Sept. 1.—In the course of battles yesterday on the western Russian front, says the Russian official statement of today, the Russians captured 29 officers and 15,500 men. Of this number 2,400 were Germans.

The Russians also captured six guns, 15 machine guns and seven bomb throwers.

German Casualties at Verdun 500,000

Paris, Sept. 1.—Competent authorities estimate that about 500,000 Germans have been disabled in the Verdun region alone since Feb. 21, the beginning of the great German offensive there.

The total number of wounded German prisoners taken in the Verdun sector and in the neighborhood of the Somme exceeds 43,000.

RUMANIANS OCCUPY TRANSYLVANIA TOWNS IN RICH COAL FIELDS

Bucharest, Aug. 31, Via London, Sept. 1, 7:45 a. m.—Rumanian troops invading Transylvania have occupied the important industrial center, Petrozney, and the Furling valley, near Kronstadt, says the announcement of the Rumanian war office.

BRITISH LINES BROKEN

London, Sept. 1.—Five successive attacks were made by German troops last night on British positions on the Somme front. The war office announced today that the Germans penetrated the British defenses on a small frontage at two points between Ginchy and High Wood.

GERMANS LOSE FOUR AEROS

Paris, Sept. 1.—Four German aeroplanes were shot down yesterday on the Somme front and another was captured, the war office announced today.

French artillery was very active during the night in the Somme sector.

HARTFORD BOAT, HEAVILY LADEN, RUNS ONTO BAR

Chester, Conn., Sept. 1.—The steamer Hartford of the Hartford & New York Transportation Co., bound from New York to Hartford, is ashore on a sand bar at Watrous Point in the Connecticut river about a mile and a half below Essex.

The steamer, heavily laden with freight and carrying a considerable number of passengers, went ashore early today. The passengers were later taken off by a tug and carried up the river to points where they could get trains for their destinations.

The vessel is leaking, it was said today, but it is believed is not seriously damaged, and it is thought may be floated some time today.

Patterson Elected G. A. R. Commander

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 1.—William J. Patterson of Pittsburgh, Pa., was elected commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic at the annual encampment here today. He succeeds Capt. Elias R. Monfort, of Cincinnati.

Sues For Right to Buy Three Houses

Morris Siegal has brought suit against Jacob Gerber and Maurice Muscovitz, all of the city of Bridgeport, for the possession of three houses on the south side of Smith street. It is alleged that on February 21, 1916, the defendants agreed to sell Jacob Weiss the houses and property. On March 20, Weiss assigned all interest to the plaintiff. On May 24 Siegal asserts that he tendered the exact money, 15,300, agreed upon which was refused. Plaintiff asks the court to order delivery of the proper deeds and to award \$5,000 damages sustained.

SUTHERLAND HEADS BAR.

Chicago, Sept. 1.—Senator George Sutherland of Utah was elected president of the American Bar association for 1917 today, defeating by four votes Walter George Smith of Philadelphia. The vote was 26 for Senator Sutherland, and 22 for Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith was put on the executive committee.

MARY A. SMITH ESTATE.

Helen A. Smith was appointed administratrix of the estate of her mother, Mary A. Smith, in the probate court today. There is real estate valued at \$10,000. The heirs are the administratrix and her sister, Grace C. Remer, W. C. North and W. A. H. Hatfield were named appraisers.

THE WEATHER

Cloudiness, probably followed by showers late tonight or Saturday; slightly cooler Saturday.